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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/006,580

12/04/2001

Ulrich Grimm

A-3196

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EXAMINER

MILIA, MARK R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

04/11/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/006,580

Applicant(s)

GRIMM ET AL.

Examiner

Mark R. Milia

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2007.
2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 1/19/07 and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claims 1-6 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 1/19/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts the reference of Chang et al. (US 2002/0023187) fails to disclose the newly added limitations to claims 1 and 4 that call for at least one galvanic link being detected and interpreted by a participant. The examiner respectfully disagrees as Chang discloses, or at the very least would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art due to known practices, such a feature. Particularly, Chang discloses in paragraph 46 that a terminal circuit module **700** includes a printed circuit board **701**, a voltage regulator **702**, and a plurality of terminal resistors **703**. When the terminal circuit module **700** is plugged into any one of the memory module slots **240-270**, the voltage regulator **702** is able to provide the necessary reference voltage to the reference voltage pin of the memory module slot. Thus, it can be seen that a link is detected and interpreted by the terminal circuit module **700** (participant). Further, the

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applicant states, on page 1 of the specification, that it is known to construct the participant in a neutral manner and only to determine the actual purpose or intention of the participant through the use of a measure on site, measures of this type can be carried out on the participant on site, for example through the use of so-called jumpers or through the use of DIL (dual In-Line) switches. The applicant also states, on page 5 of the specification, that a device interrogates the galvanic link in the plug port of the set of lines as though the corresponding adjustment has been performed through the use of jumpers or DIL switches. Therefore, it would have been obvious to detect and interpret the link, as this is a known practice in the art, as evidenced by the applicant admission of this feature as prior art.

3. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the participant being active, meaning it takes the information relevant for it from the bus as apposed to the passive memory modules of Chang) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). The claims do not make clear which element is carrying out processes. The claims only state that the participants interact with the central computer in order to carry out processes, which can be interpreted as either the participant or the central computer carrying out the processes. Further, interaction between the participants and the central computer only gives light to the fact that some kind of information is passed between the two elements. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims.

See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-6, as set forth in the previous Office Action, is maintained and repeated in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims only state that the participants interact with the central computer in order to carry out processes, which can be interpreted as either the participant or the central computer carrying out the processes. The claims do not make clear which element is carrying out processes, or what the processing is for that matter. Further, interaction between the participants and the central computer only gives light to the fact that some kind of information is passed between the two elements. The interaction does nothing to define which element actually carries out processing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023187 to Chang et al.

Regarding claims 1 and 4, Chang discloses a device for defining a control system with a plurality of neutral participants, the device comprising: a control system configured to control a machine, said control system including a central computer and a plurality of the neutral participants, the neutral participants interacting with said central computer said participants interacting with in order to carry out processes (see Figs. 2, 4B, 6, and 7, and paragraphs 32, 33, 40, 42, and 45-50), a bus system including lines, the participants being connected to said central computer via said lines of said bus system (see Fig. 2), said lines of said bus system and the participants having respective plugs connecting said lines to the participants (see Fig. 2 and paragraphs 32-33), and at least given ones said plugs of said lines of said bus system having reserved plug contacts, said reserved plug contacts being provided with at least one link, and said at least one link being detected and interpreted by a participant (see Fig. 7 and paragraphs 40, 42, and 46).

Regarding claims 2 and 5, Chang discloses wherein said at least one link is connected to a given voltage potential (see Fig. 7 and paragraphs 40, 42, and 46).

Regarding claims 3 and 6, Chang discloses wherein said reserved plug contacts are free connections of a respective one of said plugs, said at least one link is fitted to said free connections (Fig. 7 and paragraphs 40, 42, and 46).

Chang does not disclose expressly a control system configured to control a printing machine and wherein the link being a galvanic link.

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However, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the system of Change to control a printing machine as Chang discloses that the system is part of a personal computer (paragraph 5), and as is well known in the art, personal computers are often connected to printing machines and control input to the machine and as is further known in the art, printing machines often contain a plurality of memory modules connected to the main printed circuit board or control chipset. It also would have been obvious to use a galvanic link, as it is analogous to a "jumper" that connects two or more pins or other such connection. Further, the applicant states, on page 1 of the specification, that it is known to construct the participant in a neutral manner and only to determine the actual purpose or intention of the participant through the use of a measure on site, measures of this type can be carried out on the participant on site, for example through the use of so-called jumpers or through the use of DIL (dual In-Line) switches. The applicant also states, on page 5 of the specification, that a device interrogates the galvanic link in the plug port of the set of lines as though the corresponding adjustment has been performed through the use of jumpers or DIL switches. Therefore, it would have been obvious to detect and interpret the link, as this is a known practice in the art, as evidenced by the applicant admission of this feature as prior art.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide additional memory modules to be added to a printing machine to increase memory capacity and enhance overall system productivity.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

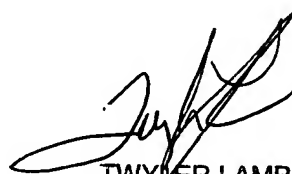
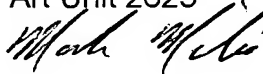
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached at (571) 272-7406. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MRM

Mark R. Milia
Examiner
Art Unit 2625



TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER